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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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LYON & HARR, LLP 300 ESPLANADE DRIVE, SUITE 800 OXNARD, CA 93036			STORK, KYLE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/682,116	Applicant(s) FARADAY ET AL. 	
	Examiner Kyle R Stork	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/23/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the application filed July 19, 2001 and the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 23, 2002.
2. Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1, 23, 29 and 30 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 4-5, 18-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 4 the term "in close proximity" in claim 4 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "in close proximity" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is not possible for one of ordinary skill in the art to know how close the indicator must be to the animation event in order to be "in close proximity".

As per claim 5 the applicant discloses "the process of Claim 4 wherein the indicator representing the logical relationship of starting an animation event with a previous animation event is a blank space, and wherein, the indicator representing the logical relationship of starting an animation event after a

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previous animation event is a clock.” However, it is not possible for the indicator representing the logical relationship of starting an animation event with a previous animation event to be both a blank space and a clock simultaneously.

5. Claims 18-21 are rejected due to their dependence upon claim 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Section 2106 of the MPEP states:

(a) Functional Descriptive Material: “Data Structures” Representing Descriptive Material Per Se or Computer Programs Representing Computer Listings Per Se
Data structures not claimed as embodied in computer-readable media are descriptive material per se and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in the computer. See, e.g., Warmerdam, 33 F.3d at 1361, 31 USPQ2d at 1760 (claim to a data structure per se held nonstatutory). Such claimed data structures do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and other claimed aspects of the invention which permit the data structure’s functionality to be realized. In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure’s functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

Similarly, computer programs claimed as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs, are not physical “things.” They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not “acts” being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer which permit the computer program’s functionality to be realized. In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program’s functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. Accordingly, it is important to distinguish claims that define descriptive material per se from claims that define statutory inventions.

Computer programs are often recited as part of a claim. Office personnel should determine whether the computer program is being claimed as part of an otherwise statutory manufacture or machine. In such a case, the claim remains statutory irrespective of the fact that a computer program is included in the claim. The same result occurs when a computer program is used in a computerized process where the computer executes the instructions set forth in the computer program. Only when the claimed invention taken as a whole is directed to a mere program listing, i.e., to only its description or expression, is it descriptive material per se and hence nonstatutory.

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7. Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As per independent claim 30 "a computer-implemented process" is disclosed. This is non-statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101 because such a claimed process does not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and other claimed aspects of the invention which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized as designated by the MPEP.

As per dependent claim 31 "the process of Claim 30" is disclosed. This is non-statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101 for reasons similar to those in above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claim 1-5, 6, 10-13, 16, and 18-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft® PowerPoint® 2000, released in 1999 (Figure 1).

Microsoft® PowerPoint® is a slide show presentation with timing and animation effects. The screenshots provided show product information and the Copyright date along with several slide views, timings, slide show options, and animation effects.

As per independent claim 1, PowerPoint® discloses a computer-implemented processes for viewing and controlling an animation sequence comprising the process actions of:

- Displaying an event list containing one or more animation events in an ordered sequence (Figures 2-3: Both figures 2 and 3 show a list view. Figure 2 shows an outline and figure 3 shows the slides in sequence.)
- An event timeline graphically depicting the timing of the animation event can be displayed for each animation event (Figure 3: Figure 3 shows timing for the animation of each slide immediately beneath the slide. For example, Slide 1 has timing of 13 seconds, while Slide 2 has timing of 27 seconds, and Slide 3 has timing of 10 seconds.)

As per dependent claim 2, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein:

- A logical relationship is defined between one animation event in the event list and another animation event in the event list (Figures 2-3: Figures 2 and 3 both show the same relationship. Figure 2 shows the relationship from top to bottom, with the topmost item, Slide 1, being first. Figure 3 shows the relationship from left to right, with the leftmost item, Slide 1, being first.)
- The logical relationship is usable in manipulating the ordered sequence (Figures 3-4: Figure 3 shows the original logical relationship of the items, with Slide 1 being first, Slide 2 second, and Slide 3 last. Figure 4 shows the sequence after manipulation of Slide 3. Slide 3 has been moved to

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the first position in the list, yet the logical relationship between the other slides, Slide 1 and Slide 2, has remained constant.)

As per dependent claim 3, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the logical relationship comprises one of:

- Starting an animation event with a previous event, which causes the animation event to start at the same time as the immediately previous animation event (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: "However, if you have second- and third-level bullets and choose to introduce text by the first level, the second- and third-level bullets will appear with the first-level bullet they fall under.")
- Starting the animation event after completion of a previous animation event, which causes the event to start after completion of an immediately previously scheduled event in the ordered sequence (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: "If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.")
- Starting the animation event on an input device action, which causes the animation event to start after a specific number of input device actions have been completed (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: "If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically

and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.” This section implies that mouse clicks (input device actions) are the general method of causing animation. Furthermore, it is also stated that: introducing text by that level will cause them to appear with separate mouse clicks.” This also notes the option of input device actions triggering animation.)

- Starting said animation event after a delay having a specified duration
Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.”)
- Starting the animation event upon the initiation of another triggering event
(Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.” This section implies that mouse clicks (input device actions) are the general method of causing animation. Furthermore, it is also stated that: introducing text by that level will cause them to appear with separate mouse clicks.” This also notes the option of input device actions triggering animation.)

As per dependent claim 4, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein an animation event in the event list is associated with an indicator that represents said logical relationship between said animation event and at least one other animation event in the event list and wherein said indicator is displayed in close proximity to the associated animation event (Figure 7: Figure 7 displays an icon directly below each of the slides (this icon is different than the icon displayed below the slides in figures 3-5). This icon represents a transition between events and is displayed in close proximity to the associated animation event.).

As per dependent claim 5, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the indicator representing the logical relationship of starting an animation event with a previous animation event is a blank space, and wherein, the indicator representing the logical relationship of starting an animation event after a previous animation event is a clock (Figure 7: Here, the logical relationship is a blank space).

As per dependent claim 6, PowerPoint® discloses the process further comprising a graphically-depicted universal timeline that provides a time corresponding to all animation event times in the ordered sequence (Figures 3-5: The figures 3-5 depict a timeline for each slide that corresponds to the animation event times in the ordered sequence.).

As per dependent claim 10, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the logical relationship between animation events in the event list can be changed by activating a context-sensitive menu (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343, Figure 15.8)

As per dependent claim 11, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the logical relationship between animation events in the event list is maintained when the order of an animation event in the event list is changed by selecting and dragging the animation event up or down the event list with a computer input device to change its order in the order sequence (Figures 3-4: It can be seen that the logical relationship between Slide 1 and Slide 2 has been maintained from figure 3 to figure 4 although the relationship between Slide 2 and Slide 3 has changed because Slide 3 was dragged up the list to the beginning.).

As per dependent claim 12, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein an event can be created to repeat itself (Figures 5-6: In figure 5 it is seen that there are two copies of the event named Slide 3. Creation of the duplicate event can be accomplished by either using a cut and paste method provided by PowerPoint®, or by use of the “Insert” menu and option “Duplicate”. This causes the event to be displayed twice in the slideshow and accomplishes the feat of repeating itself. Figure 6 shows the option to have a slideshow “Loop continuously until ‘Esc’.” This causes each of the events within the slideshow to be repeated in sequence until a user presses the ‘Esc’ key.).

As per dependent claim 13, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the context-sensitive menu contains menu items to allow setting the logical relationship of a selected event to:

- Start with a previous animation event (Figure 12: Introduce text box in the lower right corner)

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- Start after a previous animation event (Figure 11: Start animation box in the lower left, specifically the automatically option)
- Start after a specified number of input device selection actions (Figure 11: Start animation box in the lower left, specifically the on mouse click option)
- Start after specified delay (Figure 11: Start animation box in the lower left, specifically the automatically option and the input box to specify a number of seconds)
- Start upon the initiation of a triggering event (Figure 11: Start animation box in the lower left, specifically the on mouse click option)

As per dependent claim 16, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein if a start time, end time or duration of an animation event is changed all events in the ordered sequence will automatically adjust based on the logical relationship between the animation events (Figures 3-4: Figure 3 shows an original listing of the animation events beginning with Slide 1, which has a duration of 13 seconds and starts at the beginning of the slideshow. Figure 4 shows the modified configuration where the logical relationship is different. The first animation event is Slide 3, meaning it will start at the beginning of the slideshow and last for 10 seconds. The other slides will then follow behind automatically.).

As per dependent claim 18, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the number of indicators associated with an animation event is determined by the width of a display area available for displaying information associated with the event list (Figures 13-14: These two figures show different information based upon the width of the window. In figure 13, the number of animation event in

sequence is not displayed because of the width of the window. However, in figure 14, the number of the animation event is displayed because the window is sufficiently wide to display the information).

As per dependent claim 19, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the number of indicators associated with each event in the event list displayed is increased when the width of the display is expanded, and the number of indicators associated with each event in the event list displayed is decreased when the width of the display is decreased (Figures 8 and 13-14)

As per dependent claim 20, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the number of animation events displayed in an event list is determined by the height of a display area available for displaying information associated with the event list (Figures 8-10: Figures 8-10 show the number of animation events that can be displayed when the display area is various sizes. Each figure shows a different amount of information.).

As per dependent claim 21, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the number of animation events displayed is increased when the height or the display is expanded (Figures 8-9), and the number of animation events displayed is decreased when the height of the display is decreased (Figures 8 and 10).

As per dependent claim 22, PowerPoint® discloses the process wherein the user can use keyboard keys to manipulate events in the event list (PowerPoint® Help: Keys for working with menus; Keys for working with toolbars; Slide show controls: These three sections from the PowerPoint® Help illustrate that all operations can be performed with keyboard keys.).

As per independent claim 23, PowerPoint® discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for controlling and displaying a sequence of events, the computer executable instructions comprising:

- Displaying a list of events in a time ordered sequence in an event list (Figures 2-5)
- Defining at least one logical relationship between events (Figures 2-5)
- Using the at least one logical relationship to automatically modify the ordered sequence according to a list of logic constraints if a change is made to one event that affects other events in the event list (Figures 3-4)

As per dependent claim 24, PowerPoint® discloses the computer-readable medium further comprising computer executable instructions comprising displaying an event timeline graphically depicting the timing of the event (Figures 3-5).

As per dependent claim 25, PowerPoint® discloses the computer-readable medium further comprising allowing a user to manipulate the events in the ordered sequence using the event list or the event timeline (Figures 3-4).

As per dependent claim 26, PowerPoint® discloses the computer-readable medium wherein when the logical relationship of one of the events in the event list is changed, the corresponding ordered sequence is changed (Figures 3-4).

As per dependent claim 27, PowerPoint® discloses the computer-readable medium wherein the at least one logical relationship comprises one of:

- Starting an animation event with a previous event, which causes the animation event to start at the same time as the immediately previous animation event (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “However, if you have second- and third-level bullets and choose to introduce text by the first level, the second- and third-level bullets will appear with the first-level bullet they fall under.”)
- Starting the animation event after completion of a previous animation event, which causes the event to start after completion of an immediately previously scheduled event in the ordered sequence (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.”)
- Starting the animation event on an input device action, which causes the animation event to start after a specific number of input device actions have been completed (Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.” This section implies that mouse clicks (input device actions) are the general method of causing animation. Furthermore, it is also stated that:

introducing text by that level will cause them to appear with separate mouse clicks.” This also notes the option of input device actions triggering animation.)

- Starting said animation event after a delay having a specified duration
Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.”)
- Starting the animation event upon the initiation of another triggering event
(Mastering Microsoft® Office 2000 Professional Edition, page 343: “If you wish to automate animations so that it proceeds without mouse clicks, choose the option to start animation Automatically and set the number of seconds that should pass between the end of the previous animation and the beginning of the selected animation.” This section implies that mouse clicks (input device actions) are the general method of causing animation. Furthermore, it is also stated that: introducing text by that level will cause them to appear with separate mouse clicks.” This also notes the option of input device actions triggering animation.)

As per dependent claim 28, PowerPoint® discloses logic constraints comprising at least one of:

- A first event in the ordered sequence is never constrained (Figure 2: The first event can never be constrained since the animation occurs when the

slide show is started. It is impossible to force a first animation event to begin after a second animation event since the second event would then become the first, and therefore unconstrained.)

- An event set to start with a previous animation event is not constrained to another event that is set to start with a previous animation event
- A logical relationship that causes an animation event to start with a previous animation event force the corresponding event to default to start at the start time of a previous event
- An animation event that is set to start with a previous animation event cannot be retimed to start prior to an animation event that requires that the animation event start after a previous event
- An animation event that is set to start with a previous animation event cannot be set to start prior to an event that is required to start after a previous animation event
- An event preceding an event that is set to start after a previous animation event must start either at the same start time or later
- An event set to start after a previous animation event starts following the longest duration event of any event that is to start with a previous event in the prior block or group, up to the last "after previous" event timeline
- An event that has no duration, is treated as having an end time the same as its start time and setting an animation event to start after a previous event in this case sets the constraint to the start of the timeline

As per independent claim 29 PowerPoint® discloses a system for displaying and controlling an animation sequence, the system comprising:

- A general purpose computing device (Figure 1, Warning section: This section protects PowerPoint® as a computer program, necessitating a computing device in order for PowerPoint® to be used.)
- A computer program comprising program modules executable by the computing device, wherein the computing device is directed by the program modules of the computer program to:
 - Display an event list containing at least one event in an ordered sequence on a display device (Figures 2-3)
 - Displaying a timeline correlating to the at least one event in the event list (Figures 3-4)

10. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scott et al. (U.S. 5,675,752).

As per independent claim 30, Scott discloses a computer-implemented process for controlling a timeline comprising the process actions of:

- Displaying a scroll bar representing a timeline wherein a control is overlaid on the timeline (Figure 22b, items 2850, 2830, 2832, 2834)
- Controlling the time selected on the timeline by moving the control overlay the desired time (Figure 22b, item 2850; column 26, lines 53-55)

As per dependent claim 31, Scott discloses the process further comprising the actions of automatically displaying at least one event associated with said desired time once the desired time is selected (Figure 22b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 7-8, 14-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PowerPoint® and further in view of Scott et al. (U.S. 5,675,752).

As per dependent claim 7, PowerPoint® discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. PowerPoint® discloses the duration of the event (Figure 3). PowerPoint® fails to disclose an event timeline bar which indicates the animation event's start time, stop time and each event timeline bar being correlated to the universal timeline. However, Scott discloses an event timeline bar which indicates the animation event's start time, stop time, and duration, each event timeline bar being correlated to the universal timeline (Figure 22b, items 2830, 2832, 2834; column 26, lines 52-55; column 3, lines 22-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined the method of PowerPoint® to graphically depict an animation event with Scott's method of synchronizing events with a universal timeline and displaying the event's start time, stop time,

and duration, since it would have allowed a user to graphically view the timing of the events in the sequence in relation to each other.

As per dependent claim 8, PowerPoint® and Scott disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 7, and the same rejection is incorporated herein.

PowerPoint® discloses selecting and dragging the entire event timeline bar with an input device to move the event earlier or later in time (Figures 3-4).

PowerPoint® further discloses selecting an event with an input device and dragging it to the left to move the start time of the event earlier in time and selecting an event with an input device and dragging it to the right to move the start time of the event later in time (Figures 3-4). However, PowerPoint® fails to disclose a timeline bar. Scott discloses a timeline bar (Figure 22b, item 2850; column 26, lines 52-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined the method of PowerPoint® that allows for event to be drug to a new location in the order of animation events with Scott's method of displaying a timeline bar, since it would have allowed a user to visualize the effects of an event movement on the universal timeline.

As per dependent claim 14, PowerPoint® and Scott disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 7, and the same rejection is incorporate herein. PowerPoint® discloses that if the logical relationship between animation events is changed the event timeline bars are automatically redrawn to show the new logical relationship based on a set of logic constraints (Figure 4).

As per dependent claim 15, PowerPoint® and Scott disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 14, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. PowerPoint® also discloses logic constraints comprising at least one of:

- A first event in the ordered sequence is never constrained (Figure 2: The first event can never be constrained since the animation occurs when the slide show is started. It is impossible to force a first animation event to begin after a second animation event since the second event would then become the first, and therefore unconstrained.)
- An event set to start with a previous animation event is not constrained to another event that is set to start with a previous animation event
- A logical relationship that causes an animation event to start with a previous animation event force the corresponding event to default to start at the start time of a previous event
- An animation event that is set to start with a previous animation event cannot be retimed to start prior to an animation event that requires that the animation event start after a previous event
- An animation event that is set to start with a previous animation event cannot be set to start prior to an event that is required to start after a previous animation event
- An event preceding an event that is set to start after a previous animation event must start either at the same start time or later

- An event set to start after a previous animation event starts following the longest duration event of any event that is to start with a previous event in the prior block or group, up to the last “after previous” event timeline
- An event that has no duration, is treated as having an end time the same as its start time and setting an animation event to start after a previous event in this case sets the constraint to the start of the timeline

As per dependent claim 17, PowerPoint® discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 6, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. However, PowerPoint® fails to disclose that when an animation event in the event list is selected with an input device, a corresponding portion of the universal timeline is displayed. However, Scott discloses that when an animation event in the event list is selected with an input device, a corresponding portion of the universal timeline is displayed (Figure 22b, item 2850).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined the method of PowerPoint® to display a time corresponding to all animation events in an ordered sequence with Scott's method of displaying the location of the event in the universal timeline when selected, since it would have allowed a user to quickly see the relative position of an event.

Allowable Subject Matter

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13. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Freeman et al. (US 5861881): Discloses an interactive presentation with a universal timeline.
- Amiot et al. (US 5781188): Discloses multimedia clips with a universal timeline.
- Boezeman et al. (US 5758093): Discloses a sequence editor with a timeline.
- Boezeman et al. (US 6188396): Discloses synchronizing of multimedia with relative, absolute, and event time.
- Kanno et al. (US 2002/0194216): Discloses a slide show method with browser.
- Cortright (US 2002/0085034): Discloses a timeline.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R Stork whose telephone number is

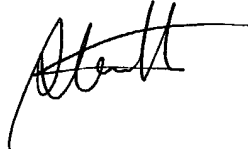
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(703) 605-1203. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (703) 308-5465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyle Stork
Patent Examiner
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STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER